

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PARIS 03120 011801Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 IO-13
/109 W

-----118316 020736Z /10

R 011750Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5124
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 03120

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MOPS, CD, FR
SUBJ: DOWNING OF CHADIAN AIR FORCE PLANE

REFS: A. NDJAMENA 386. B. NDJAMENA 392.

1. THE DOWNING OF TWO CHAD AIR FORCE PLANES PILOTED
BY FRENCH CREWS MADE THE AFTERNOON PAPERS JANUARY 31
AND WAS FRONT-PAGED MOST PAPERS FEBRUARY 1. THE
SLANT GIVEN TO THE STORY DEPENDED UPON THE POLITICS
OF THE PAPER: COMMUNIST "HUMANITE" HEADLINED: "DEATH
IN CHAD: THE PRICE OF PERSISTENT FRENCH MILITARY
INTERVENTION IN AFRICA." SOCIALIST "LE MATIN" HEAD-
LINED ITS STORY: "CHAD: FRANCE IN A NEW AFRICAN
TRAP." THE LE MATIN STORY WAS, HOWEVER, FAIRLY
STRAIGHTFORWARD, EDITORIALIZING ONLY TO THE EXTENT
OF SAYING THAT THE GOF IS ONCE AGAIN CONFRONTED WITH
THE CONSEQUENCES OF ITS AFRICAN POLICY. INDEPENDENT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PARIS 03120 011801Z

RIGHT WING PAPERS CARRIED THE STORY STRAIGHT WITH
CONSIDERABLE BACKGROUND TO FRANCE'S INVOLVEMENT IN
CHAD.

2. DURING A FEBRUARY 1 MEETING WE ASKED THE QUAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA, TRISTAN D'ALBIS,
WHETHER THE DOWNING OF THE TWO PLANES WOULD HAVE

SIGNIFICANCE FOR FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS CHAD, COMING AS IT DOES IN THIS SENSITIVE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. HE SAID THAT THE OPPOSITION WOULD ATTEMPT TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE BUT WOULD SOON LET IT DROP BECAUSE THE FRENCH ELECTORATE IS NOT NORMALLY AND WILL NOT BE AT THIS TIME SWAYED BY FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES OF LESS THAN MAJOR IMPORTANCE. THE DOWNINGS WILL NOT IN ANY CASE CAUSE ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGE IN GENERAL FRENCH POLICY TOWARDS CHAD. THE EVENT WILL, HOWEVER, WEIGH ON THE ALREADY POOR AND RECENTLY DETERIORATING FRENCH RELATIONS WITH LIBYA, MAKING MORE PAINFUL AND DIFFICULT THE FRENCH POLICY OF ATTEMPTING TO KEEP BRIDGES OPEN TO THE QADHAFI REGIME.
HARTMAN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AIR FORCE, AIRCRAFT ACCIDENTS, AIR EXERCISES, COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS03120
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780049-0898
Format: TEL
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197802106/aaaadlxa.tel
Line Count: 76
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 14946dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: 78 NDJAMENA 386
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3442580
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DOWNING OF CHADIAN AIR FORCE PLANE
TAGS: MOPS, CD, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/14946dcd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014